

Remarks/Arguments:

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 3 and 16, and have cancelled claims 1, 2, 11, and 27. Claims 3-10, 12-26, and 28-34 are pending.

Claims 2, 16, 20-25, 28, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Katzenmaier; claims 1, 3-9, 12, 15, 19, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Katzenmaier; claims 1-8, 10, 12-16, 19-24, and 28-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferrarri in view of Katzenmaier; claims 17-18, and 33-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferrarri and Katzenmaier; claims 13 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katzenmaier in view of Ferrarri; and claims 17-18 and 33-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katzenmaier. Based on this Amendment, Applicants respectfully traverse the Section 102(e) and Section 103(a) rejections.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's finding that claims 11 and 27 include allowable subject matter. Claim 11 is dependent on independent claim 3, and claim 27 is dependent on independent claim 16. Applicants have therefore incorporated the allowable subject matter of claim 11 into claim 3, and the allowable subject matter of claim 27 into claim 16. Applicants have also cancelled independent claims 1 and 2. Thus all pending claims include the allowable subject matter of either claim 11 (now cancelled) or claim 27 (now cancelled). All pending claims should be allowed over the references of record. Applicants thereby request that the Examiner withdraw the Section 102(e) and Section 103(a) rejections.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-10, 12-26, and 28-34 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel N. Calder, Reg. No. 27,424
Attorney for Applicants

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Reply to Office Action of July 2, 2004



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DNC/lcf

Dated: July 19, 2004

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

July 19, 2004

Lorraine C. Fox

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine C. Fox". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

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